

Fall back



Irish victory

Notre Dame routs Navy 58-27 - 1E



Final exit

Vincent Price was king of thrillers - 1C



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Final push in race for governor



By Tim Markos, Courier-Post
On patrol: Volunteers walk the streets of North Camden Saturday night.

Rainy patrol saves Camden from mischief

By KEVIN RIORDAN
Courier-Post Staff

CAMDEN — The skies poured but spirits soared as the city's second annual all-out effort to curb mischief on Saturday night was Mischief Night increased successful Saturday.

Although a soaking rain reduced the number of volunteers — officials expected 2,000 — and estimated that 1,200 reported for patrol duty — the 340-member Camden Police Department was fully mobilized and supported by upwards of 100 officers from the Camden County Sheriff's Department and Prosecutor's Office.

Only a single, quickly extinguished fire in a vacant residence had been reported as of press time.

"The rain has not dampened the spirit of the persons on the streets," said Vernon Wynter, chairman of the Camden Anti-Arson Task Force, said at a press conference at the Camden Police Administration Building.

"I'm extremely pleased," city Police Chief Bob Pugh said. "Mischief Night was a negative, but we've turned it into a tremendous positive."

The task force was established last year after Mischief Night 1992, which saw a nationwide wave of more than 155 fires, according to the Firehouse 26 campaign to cut the number of fire calls to 26 and sparked an awakening of civic pride in the long-struggling city.

"What's so heartening is there are actually new volunteer committees out there in the rain," said Camden County Prosecutor Edward F. McDonnell Jr.

That indeed seemed to be the case as Mischief Night 1993 got under way.

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Keeping it fun and safe

• The city sponsors 17 Halloween parties for kids Page 4A.

• North Camden arson patrollers are a spirited bunch. Page 4A.

The problem with Party labels



Illustration by L. Trislett, Courier-Post

Issue politics takes over — for better and worse

By LEE MOORE
Courier-Post Staff

For thousands of confused, conflicted or otherwise undecided voters, Tuesday's election could boil down to a last-second pick based on one question: Who's the Democrat and who's the Republican?

It's a choice that, over the years, loyalists in both camps

have painted as puppy-dog simple: liberal vs.

conservative. The working class vs. big business.

Alternative lifestyles vs.

"family values."

Vote Republican, some hard-line Democrats charge,

and elect the country club set,

the rich Rotarians eager to

plunder the environment

between golf outings with

corporate fat cats.

Vote Democrat, Republicans counter, and elect the bleeding-heart set, the liberals eager to plunder private wealth to save a tree frog or launch one more bloated social program.

But in 1993, there's

skepticism that the boundary

lines are blurring.

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INSIDE

Halloween is creeping up in popularity

By CAROL COMEGNO
Courier-Post Staff

A lifelike hand, battery operated, creeps along the floor. A ghostly device connected to a doorway that glows when someone steps on the mat.

Then there are the new Halloween flags with symbols of jack-o'-lanterns and witches, the haunted hayrides and the increasing numbers of elaborately decorated front lawns.

These are some of the new items and trends for Hallows' Eve, which is fast becoming a more important holiday — second only to Christmas — each year for families and retailers.

Market research by Hallmark Cards Inc. shows \$400 million

The bride wore black
• ... and the groom was Frankenstein in this Magnolia wedding. Page 1B.

was spent in 1992 on Halloween decorations, party accessories, candy, costumes and other merchandise. Other estimates by retailers put the figure at \$1 billion.

Hallmark card sales alone jumped 25 percent from 28 million in 1991 to 35 million in 1992.

"Hallowe'en is now second only to Christmas," said Rooney Peace, a spokesman for Hallmark. "We think it is because it is just pure fun and escapism and more adults are getting involved."



Up and at 'em: Passers-by get a special greeting on Evesham Road in Magnolia. Halloween is now a growth industry.

Please see HALLOWEEN, Page 7A

Polls differ on who is in the lead

■ Hard to call:
Despite the last-minute flurry of polls and TV ads, New Jersey voters are unpredictable.

By RITA MANNO
Courier-Post Staff

Like race horses calling up the last bit of energy in a surge from the finish line, Gov. Jim Florio and Christine Todd Whitman are running at a frantic pace, showing up at rallies, dinners, schools, breakfasts and private homes.

In 48 hours it will all be over, the era of roller-coaster campaigns that began with a wildly unpopular Democratic governor who has steadily worked himself out of the cellar of public opinion polls and a woman who became the Republican hope after nearly toppling Democratic giant Sen. Bill Bradley in 1990.

Driving the campaigns toward election day are the public opinion polls, the television ads and the notion that New Jersey voters are unpredictable. Those polls — and the candidates they point to — candidates at a dead heat, another with Florio up by 10 points — are producing conflicting results.

It was unthinkable a year ago that Florio could even be competitive. Once cast as a political unknown for his role in pushing through the state's highest tax increase, Florio has confounded critics with his emergence as the street fighter of old.

Embracing an assault weapons ban and backing welfare reform laws, Florio has managed to package himself as the candidate of change, a savvy political feat for an incumbent.

Meanwhile, Whitman has tried to focus her campaign on Florio's capability in managing to lost jobs and economic woes.

Along the way, though, Whitman — who came into the race largely unknown but facing a public willing to be convinced — has tripped and stumbled, underestimating her opponents and,

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On the campaign front
• Heil battle is on. Page 11A

• Whitman gains. Page 11A

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Touch-tone

Will you vote for Jim Florio or Christine Todd Whitman for governor?

To vote FLORIO dial code 2222
To vote WHITMAN dial code 4444

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